



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

EO-178
KB

Section of Environmental Analysis

October 19, 2004

Ms. Jeanie Alderson
Northern Plains Resource Council
2401 Montana Avenue, Suite 200
Billings, MT 59101

**Re: Tongue River Railroad Company, Inc. – Finance Docket 30186 (Sub-No. 3) –
Construction and Operation of the Western Alignment**

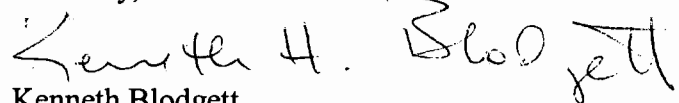
Dear Ms. Alderson:

Thank you for your letter, received by the Surface Transportation Board's (STB's) Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) on September 29, 2004, in which you expressed concerns regarding the above referenced project. The Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) was served to all those parties on the service list for this docket on October 15, 2004. I've noted that your name appears on the service list.

In response to your requests, there will be a 45 day public comment period on the Draft SEIS. The public comment period will end on December 6, 2004. Two public meetings have been scheduled in Montana during which interested parties may submit written comments or make oral comments. The meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, November 16, 2004, at the Miles Community College in Miles City, MT and Wednesday, November 17, 2004, at the St. Labre Indian School in Ashland, Montana. Both meetings are scheduled from 7 - 9 p.m..

Thank you for your interest and participation in the environmental review process. If you would like additional information about the environmental review process, please contact me at (202) 565-1554.

Sincerely,



Kenneth Blodgett
Section of Environmental Analysis